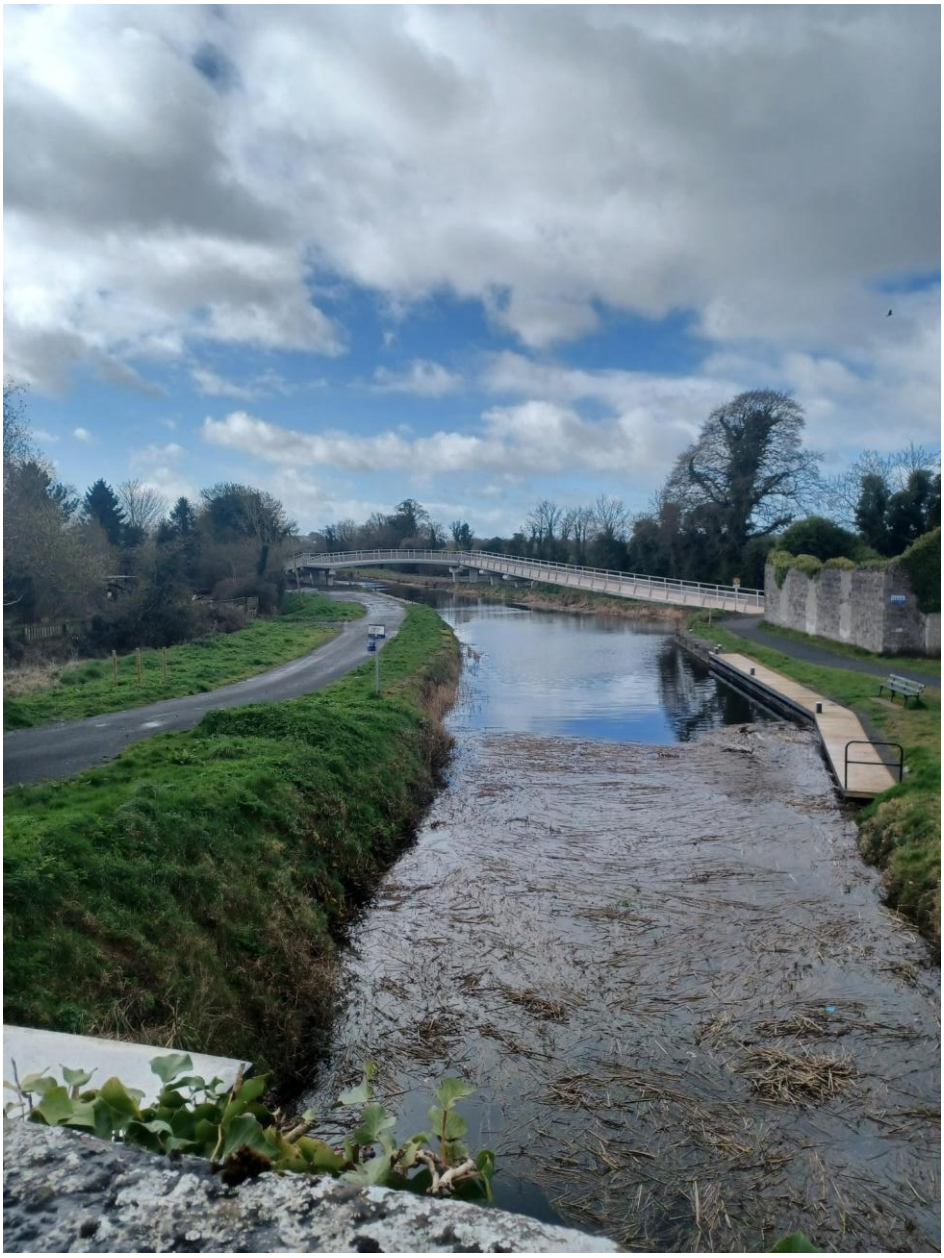
STRATEGIC PROJECTS & PUBLIC REALM
PROJECT UPDATE

GREENWAYS & TRAILS

Barrow Blueway

September 2026



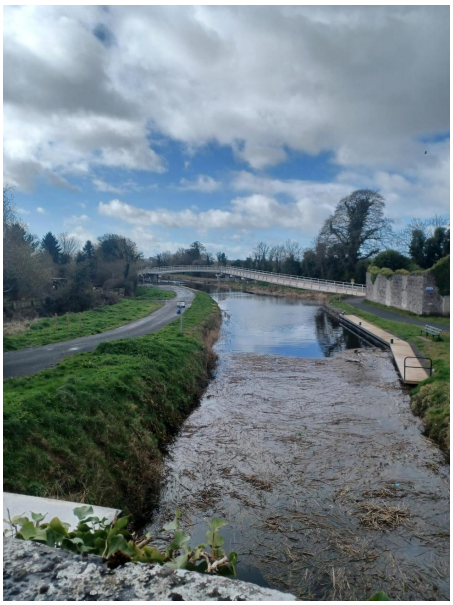
Barrow Blueway towpath and waterway.

LATEST PROJECT ACTIONS

- Complete the outstanding contractor snagging, including items associated with the pedestrian bridge.
- Progress agreement documentation with Laois County Council and Waterways Ireland.
- Progress the conciliation process and close out the final account.
- There is currently no dedicated funding mechanism for ongoing Blueway or Greenway maintenance costs.

MAIN ROUTE AND STRUCTURES

- The 46 km towpath works from Lowtown to Athy were completed in partnership with Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council.
- Connectivity links controlled and uncontrolled road crossings, and associated road-safety improvements have been completed.
- The controlled crossing at Rathangan Spencer Bridge was commissioned in early 2026.
- The pedestrian bridge west of Spencer Bridge, Rathangan, is substantially complete. Comments on the snag list have been responded to and completion of snags by the contractor is awaited.
- Upgrades to jetties along the Barrow Line were completed by Waterways Ireland.



Rathangan bridge approach



Pedestrian bridge deck

ATHY TRAILHEAD

- Part 8 approval has been secured for the Barrow Blueway Trailhead.
- A procurement process is required for the final design, tender and supervision of the works.
- The Part 8 decision is to be published online and circulated to third-party submitters.

COMPLETED INTERSECTION WORKS

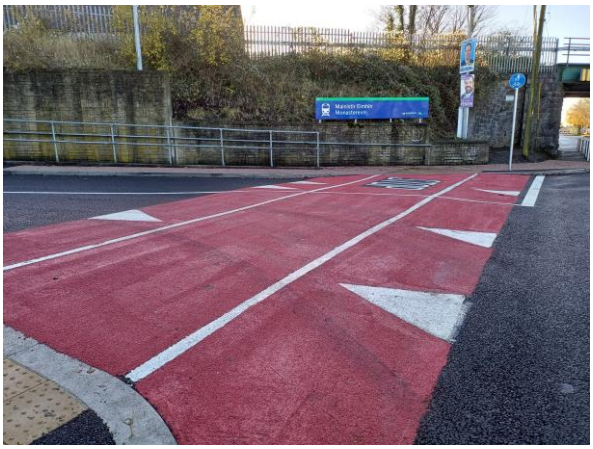
The photographs below show examples of completed towpath and roadway intersection treatments included in the source project update.



Towpath crossing and access treatment.



Gated access treatment



Controlled road crossing

NEXT STEPS

- Close out all remaining snagging items.
- Finalise agreement documentation between the project partners.
- Conclude the conciliation process and final account.
- Advance final certification and communicate the official opening arrangements when confirmed.
- Progress procurement for the Athy Trailhead final design and delivery stages.

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